

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 IGA-02 RSR-01 /127 W
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R 191336Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 507

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR, XA

SUBJECT: US/SOVIET BILATERAL CONTACTS ON AFRICA

REF: STATE 140199 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH USA SECTION MFA, WHICH THEN ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS WITH YURI ZOLOTOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF FIRST AFRICAN DIVISION (ROUGHLY NORTH AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICA); AND YURI ASTAFYEV, COUNSELOR IN THIRD AFRICAN DIVISION (EAST AFRICA). DURING CALL ON THEM BY EMBOFF JULY 19, EACH EXPRESSED INTEREST AND ASTAFYEV, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS EXCELLENT IDEA. THEY PROMISED TO TAKE IT UP WITH THEIR SUPERIORS AND LET US KNOW.

2. WE ALSO DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH V.G. SOLODOVNIKOV, DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, WHO SAID HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE EXPERTS FROM AF. HE SAID HE WOULD BE ON VACATION UNTIL SECOND WEEK IN SEPTEMBER, BUT RNCOURAGED VISIT UPON HIS RETURN.

3. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE IT IS TIMELY TO SEEK TO WIDEN THE EMBASSY'S TIES WITH AFRICAN (AS WITH OTHER) DIVISIONS IN FONOFF AND WE WOULD THEREFORE WELCOME VISIT BY AF EXPERTS AS MEANS OF OPENING DOORS AND BEGINNING DIALOGUE. IN PRESENTING PROPOSAL TO MFA AND TO AFRICAN
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INSTITUTE, WE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO KEEP IT IN TERMS OF "INFORMAL

EXCHANGE OF OPINION" IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY HINT OF CONDOMINIUM
POLITICS.

4. WILL ADVISE WHEN MFA RESPONDS. IN ANY CASE, BELIEVE VISIT
SHOULD BE PLANNED FOR NO EARLIER THAN MID-SEPTEMBER IN ORDER TO
ACCOMMODATE SOLODEVNIKOV'S SCHEDULE.
MELENCAMP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW08588
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MELLENCAMP
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730723/aaaaaqtm.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 140199 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <03-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/SOVIET BILATERAL CONTACTS ON AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, US, UR, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005